

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-10 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' amendment to claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 obviates this rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saether (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,219) in view of Greer (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,828). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 includes detecting means for detecting a change of the hierarchical structure of the directory managed by the managing means, detecting a change tracking value of the hierarchical structure on the basis of the detected change, and obtaining first difference information and second difference information. The first difference information corresponds to the change of the hierarchical structure of container entries, and the second difference information corresponds to the change of the hierarchical structure of leaf entries. Claim 1 further includes generating means for generating first message and second message. The first message includes the first difference information and a mask schema for interpreting a filtering

mask. The second message includes the second difference information and the filtering mask. The filtering mask corresponds to information of one of the leaf entries being directly under one of the container entries.

The Examiner agrees that Saether neither discloses nor suggests generating means for generating first message and second message, the first message including the first difference information and a mask schema for interpreting a filtering mask, the second message including the second difference information and the filtering mask, wherein the filtering mask corresponds to information of one of the leaf entries being directly under one of the container entries. Although the Examiner claims that the optional URL field containing a quotient page with a URL in Greer corresponds to the filtering mask of claim 1, the optional URL field containing a quotient page with a URL in Greer does not correspond to information of one of the leaf entries being directly under one of the container entries, as required by claim 1. Therefore, Greer does not disclose or suggest generating a first message including the first difference information and a mask schema for interpreting a filtering mask, the second message including the second difference information and the filtering mask, wherein the filtering mask corresponds to information of one of the leaf entries being directly under one of the container entries or transmitting means for separately transmitting said first message and said second message, as required by claim 1, and it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Saether nor Greer to derive claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over Saether in view of Greer. Dependent claims 2 and 3 are also allowable over Saether in view of Greer by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1.

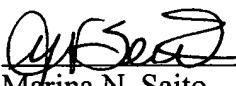
For reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claims 1-3, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 and dependent claims 6 and 9 are also allowable over Saether in view of Greer. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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